

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 SSM-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /105 W

-----042416 201806Z /46

P 201612Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1250

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS GENEVA 8017

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC, SHUM, IS

SUBJECT: ICRC PRESS RELEASE ON TREATMENT OF ARAB PRISONERS IN ISRAEL

REF: TEL AVIV 7065

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ICRC PRESS RELEASE NO. 1303 OF SEPTEMBER 19
ON ABOVE SUBJECT.

QUOTE: THE ICRC REGRETS THAT IT IS INVOLVED IN THE CONTROVERSY
NOW DEVELOPING CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF ARAB PRISONERS IN
ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT WISHES TO CONFIRM THAT
SINCE DECEMBER 1967 THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED ITS
DELEGATES TO MAKE REGULAR VISITS TO ARAB "SECURITY" PRISONERS
(CONVICTED, ON REMAND OR INTERNED UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS)
AND TO PENAL LAW PRISONERS (CONVICTED OR ON REMAND) - BUT ONLY
AFTER THE INTERROGATION PERIOD, WHICH IS GENERALLY LIMITED TO
A MONTH FOLLOWING ARREST.

AS CUSTOMARY THE ICRC DELEGATES TALK IN PRIVATE WITH DE-
TAINEES OF THEIR CHOICE, WHO MAY THEN VOICE ANY COMPLAINTS THEY
MAY HAVE REGARDING INTERROGATION METHODS OR DETENTION CONDITIONS.

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THESE COMPLAINTS ARE CONVEYED BY THE DELEGATES, WITH THE AGREE-
MENT OF THE DETAINEES CONCERNED, TO THE AUTHORITIES FOR INVESTI-
GATION. THEY ARE ALSO MENTIONED IN THE REPORTS ON THE VISITS,
WHICH, BEING CONFIDENTIAL, ARE SENT ONLY TO THE DETAINING POWER
AND TO THE PRISONERS' OWN GOVERNMENTS.

IT IS PARTICULARLY TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN CONTRO-

VERY OF THIS KIND THAT THE ICRC OBSERVES A POLICY OF STRICT DISCRETION ABOUT ITS DELEGATES' FINDINGS IN CAMPS AND PRISONS. SUCH DISCRETION IS DOUBLY NECESSARY: TO SAFEGUARD THE PRISONERS' INTERESTS AND TO MAINTAIN ICRC ACTION IN A PURELY HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT.

THE ICRC DOES NOT INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS IT PROPOSED IN DECEMBER 1973, IT IS PREPARED TO LEND ITS GOOD OFFICES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, UNDER IT AUSPICES OR THOSE OF SOME OTHER AUTHORITY APPROVED BY THE PARTIES TO THE ISRAELO-ARAB CONFLICT, OF AN AD HOC PROCEDURE FOR THE SETTING UP OF COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY INTO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS. END QUOTE

VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, TEXT, PRESS RELEASES, PRISONERS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA08017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770341-1197
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770945/aaaablqu.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f2a30a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 7065
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1211382
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC PRESS RELEASE ON TREATMENT OF ARAB PRISONERS IN ISRAEL
TAGS: SHUM, PORG, IS, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2a30a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009